



Department of Justice

United States Attorney's Office
District of North Dakota

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 21, 2010

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Fort Totten Woman Sentenced for Theft From the Spirit Lake Tribe

FARGO - Acting United States Attorney Lynn Jordheim announced that on July 21, 2010, **Melissa Rose Hunt** of Fort Totten, North Dakota, was sentenced before United States District Court Judge Ralph R. Erickson on a charge of theft from Indian tribal organization.

Hunt, 29, pleaded guilty on April 19, 2010, to fraudulently preparing and signing loans in the names of other individuals at the Spirit Lake Financial Office where she was employed at the time. She was detected in the criminal activity when a tribal member sought a loan and was denied because a loan had been taken out in her name. The incidents occurred from January 2005 through August 2008 on the Spirit Lake Indian Reservation.

Judge Erickson sentenced Hunt to two years probation and she was ordered to pay restitution which will be determined at a later date. Hunt was also ordered to pay a \$100 special assessment to the Crime Victim's Fund.

The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Assistant United States Attorney Janice M. Morley prosecuted the case.

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